

SUNY College at Oneonta - Office of International Education

# NOISE

News of International Students Everywhere

Editor in Chief: MJ Hatch

## Fun Facts:

- ◆ The Dutch, on average, are the tallest people.
- ◆ The word “taxi” is spelled the same in English, German, French, Swedish, Spanish, and Portuguese.
- ◆ Average life expectancy in Japan is one of the highest in the world. Japanese people live an average of 4 years longer than Americans.
- ◆ There are over 1500 different brands and types of beer in Germany.
- ◆ The first letter of every continent’s name is the same as the last— America, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe.

## Grammar Tip: Your/You’re

*Your* is an adjective, used to modify a noun. Example: Did you brush **your** teeth? Notice how the adjective forms a bond or relation to you or what you own or possess. Example: Is this **your** book?



*You’re* is a contraction—two words separated by an apostrophe (’), meaning “you are.” Example: **You’re** going to school.

## From the Director’s Chair

Welcome to the OIE’s first newsletter! Our publication is built upon the premise “of the students, by the students, and for the students,” which simply means that we honor your intellectual contributions, your talents, and the diversity you bring to our campus. Thus, the newsletter is inherently designed to be a forum for communication that is unique and value-added for and from our valued, international student body. We’d like to hear from you – the strength of any newsletter

stems from the merits of its bright and eager participants. So, start your journey by being the eyes and ears of the campus and global community. Perhaps you have a creative story to tell, news to report, a perspective to convey, a topic for discussion, advice to impart, a photograph to share, a poem to express, or to describe a great moment in international student history.

You’ll notice the name of our newsletter is NOISE, an acronym developed by one of our

international students who recently graduated. I believe this name captures the spirit and intent of the OIE newsletter: to sound off and be heard but in a meaningful and productive way. From the collective efforts of our student body in conjunction with insightful articles on special topics by the OIE staff, this is a publication for which we can be proud.



Carol L. Mandzik

*“The road to success is always under construction”*

*by Lily Tomlin, Actress/Comedian*

## The First Year Experience



Coming all the way from a Tanzanian high school to SUNY Oneonta was a big accomplishment for me. As an international student; I was excited about living in a new country and environment, meeting new friends, tasting new cuisines and experiencing a whole new culture. However, at

the same time feeling homesick, experiences of cultural adjustment and transitioning while pursuing my studies was a challenge for me.

Talking to loved ones from back home can really strengthen one through hard times. I also learned that whenever one felt overwhelmed and homesick, one should talk to people around them. The staff, the faculty and the students at SUNY are very helpful and friendly. I managed to overcome all the difficulties. The campus welcomed me and I adjusted in no time. The International Students Or-

ganization is an excellent club where I met other students from different cultures who were experiencing the same challenges. The clubs activities and events are also enjoyable; the club also helped me be more comfortable around different people. Not only did I get involved in the activities on campus, but I was a part of its inclusiveness. I did associate with international students but at the same time, I included Americans in my activities and discussions. I can now say that coming to SUNY was the right decision.

Meetal Odedra

*Korea Meets Germany*



Students at New York State Fair. Left to Right: Jaewon Bang and Hanna Dengler



Sports night at Chase Gym. From left to right: Genta Watanabe, Jamshid Khudayberiev, and King Hang (Tim) Lee



Yee Tung (Janis) Fung, Ka Fai (Cyril) Mak, and Fei Fei Ng at the New York State Fair

Submit your article or photograph by the 1st of every month to [hatchmj@oneonta.edu](mailto:hatchmj@oneonta.edu)

## Pajama Party at the College Camp

There were 25 international students who attended our first Pajama Party at the College Camp. The students played soccer, basketball, and Frisbee and enjoyed a great meal. At dusk, a bonfire was started and students experienced the American tradition of making S'mores and



flaming marshmallows on sticks. A variety of cultural games were played where all students participated. The event was a great suc-

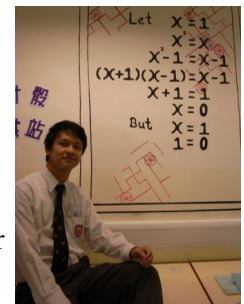
cess and students shared stories, cultural activities, stayed up way past midnight, camped out on the floor overnight, and drew closer together as friends. Though the big storm "Irene" blew in the next morning, it didn't dampen the spirits and enthusiasm of all enthusiastic participants!

## TA—Ivan Choi

The SUNY Oneonta campus offers many wonderful opportunities for our students. This includes being a teaching assistant (TA) for a class for well-qualified students. One international student, Mr. Ivan Chio from Hong Kong, is doing just this. He is a

math major and a TA for Calculus 1 and 2 for the Fall 2011 Semester. He will receive credit for this experience, which includes having office hours to consult with students in need of calculus help. Ivan says that he enjoys the position because "you always learn more when

you teach someone else." Students with strong math skills are encouraged to cultivate TA work through their professors.



## The Pit Run

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Pit Run will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at 10:45am. The race starts at Neahwa Park, goes around the SUNY Oneonta Campus, and finally ends back at Neahwa Park. The event is in honor of New York State Trooper, Ricky J. "Pit" Parisian, who died while trying to stop an armed

robbery. Last year, more than 950 runners registered to run either the 10K race, the 5K run, or the 2 mile stroll. After the run, there will be a picnic with lots of games, music, and fun for the entire community to enjoy. Even if you do not like to run, this is a great opportunity to get out into the community, support friends who are run-

ning, or enjoy a wonderful day in the park. If you are interested in registering for the run, or want to learn more go to [www.pitrun.org](http://www.pitrun.org).



## Student Corner

The artwork to the right was done by Hong Chun (Jason) Ma from Hong Kong for his Drawing 1 class. Jason says this class was "the most enjoyable class in my semester. The teacher gave me a lot of room to do what I want, and I drew without pressure, this was what I can't experience in Hong Kong." Jason came to SUNY Oneonta in the Spring of 2011 after transferring from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is currently a junior in the Computer Arts major. After he graduates, he wants to go to graduate school and focus on web design or animation.

